



# Country Engagement: Afghanistan

## Unity of Effort

The Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction & Stabilization (S/CRS) and the Civilian Response Corps support the U.S. Embassy in Kabul and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Kabul in implementing the President's Strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan by unifying the effort through integrated planning, action, and evaluation.

- ▶ **Implementing the President's Strategy through a Whole-of-Government Plan:** Leads the Civilian-Military Planning and Assessment Section (CMPASS) of the U.S. Embassy's Political-Military Section to implement the U.S. Government Integrated Civil-Military Campaign Plan for Afghanistan and to continually measure progress and adjust course through trained planning staff, best practices, and innovative tools.
- ▶ **Applying Best Practices:** Played a key role in designing and providing best practices to the civilian "surge" and to new concepts such as the "District Support Team."

## A Focus on Afghanistan's East and South

The President's Strategy focuses on Afghanistan's Eastern and Southern regions. S/CRS and the Civilian Response Corps have provided planning and integration expertise to the ISAF Regional Commands and the new Senior Civilian Representatives, key Brigade headquarters, Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) and the Interagency Provincial Affairs Office in Kabul.

- ▶ **Planning for Local Impact:** Facilitated regional plans in the East and South, culminating in the Regional Command East Integrated Guidance and Campaign Plan, the U.S. Government Action Plan for Regional Command South, and provincial-level plans and operations. This effort brought together U.S. civilians, ISAF military, international and Afghan partners as appropriate to address the needs of local Afghans and the district-by-district fight to counter the insurgency.
- ▶ **Partnership with the Afghan Government:** Provide skilled facilitators and technical experts to build Afghan capacity to prioritize Afghanistan's National Development Strategy in order to implement basic services where Afghans need them most and to expand the National Solidarity Program into critical districts, thus helping the Government to serve the Afghan people accountably and effectively.

## Measuring Progress and Training for Success

S/CRS and the Civilian Response Corps maintain a 10-person Afghan training and "reach-back" team in Washington to support the field.

- ▶ **Training Civilians and Military for Success:** In Muscatatuck, Indiana and other locations, train deploying civilians and military in the latest U.S. Government counterinsurgency (COIN) strategy in Afghanistan, civilian-military problem solving, and stabilization strategies at the local level as learning from former PRT officers, latest research, and current staff in country.
- ▶ **Measuring Progress:** Support the National Security Council's Afghanistan and Pakistan metrics process for the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan and build on assessments at the local, provincial and regional levels to ensure that Washington policymakers are informed by changes on the ground.

## Meeting Specialized Stabilization Needs

The Civilian Response Corps provides trained civilian experts to fill special requirements.

- ▶ **Advising the Military:** Advises the Intermediate Joint Command Headquarters and the Detentions Task Force.
- ▶ **Piloting New Civ-Mil Teams (Brigade):** Supported the design and execution of the civilian increase and provided 16 personnel to Brigade Task Forces and PRTs to pilot new approaches to civ-mil collaboration.
- ▶ **A New Approach to Strategic Communications:** Supports the U.S. Embassy's new outreach on strategic communications and partners with ISAF's Strategic Communications effort. Strategies include countering extremist voices, strengthening ties in civil society, empowering traditional communicators, and increasing the capacities and effectiveness of communications among and by the Afghan Government, independent media, the Afghan public, and the international community.
- ▶ **Supporting the Elections and Detecting Fraud:** Responding to a request from the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, fielded an interagency team that led the U.S. effort to support the 2009 Afghan Elections. The team strengthened the capacity of the Afghan government to hold credible elections, ensured that adequate fraud monitoring mechanisms were in place, and helped coordinate the activities of U.S. and international observer missions.